



WEEKLY E-MAILING

October 3, 2023

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Helpful Links

ACL News & Information

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

<https://acl.gov/>

ADvancing States (NASUAD) Information

Here is a link to state technical assistance from ADvancing States:

<http://www.advancingstates.org/state-technical-assistance/enhancedtechnical-assistance>

Funding Announcements from HUD

Devin Bowers, MPH, Grants Specialist

Older Adults Home Modification Grant Program

The overall purpose of the Older Adult Home Modification Program (OAHMP) is to assist experienced nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, and public housing authorities in undertaking comprehensive programs that make safety and functional home modification repairs and renovations to meet the needs of low-income seniors. The goal of the home modification program is to enable low-income elderly persons to remain in their homes through low-cost, low barrier, high impact home modifications to reduce older adults' risk of falling, improve general safety, increase accessibility, and to improve their functional abilities in their home. This will enable older adults to remain in their homes, that is, to "age in place," rather than move to nursing homes or other assisted care facilities.

Application Deadline: October 16, 2023

Award Ceiling: \$1,250,000

Award Floor: \$500,000

Link to additional information: [FR-6700-N-69](#)

Healthy Homes Production Grant Program

The Healthy Homes Production Program (HHP) is part of HUD's overall Healthy Homes Initiative launched in 1999. The program takes a comprehensive approach to addressing multiple childhood diseases and injuries in the home by focusing on housing-related hazards in a coordinated fashion, rather than addressing a single hazard at a time. The program builds upon HUD's successful Lead Hazard Control programs to expand the Department's efforts to address a variety of high-priority environmental health and safety hazards. Applicants receiving a Healthy Homes Production Award will be expected to accomplish the following objectives: Maximize both the number of vulnerable residents protected from housing-related environmental health and safety hazards and the number of housing units where these hazards are controlled; Identify and remediate housing-related health and safety hazards in privately owned, low-income rental and/or owner-occupied housing, especially in units and/or buildings where families with children, older adults 62 years and older, or families with persons with disabilities reside; Promote cost-effective and efficient healthy home methods and approaches that can be replicated and sustained; Support public education and outreach that furthers the goal of protecting children and other

vulnerable populations from housing-related health and safety hazards; Build local capacity to operate sustainable programs that will prevent and control housing-related environmental health and safety hazards in low- and very low-income residences, and develop a professional workforce that is trained in healthy homes assessment and principles; Promote integration of this grant program with housing rehabilitation, property maintenance, weatherization, healthy homes initiatives, local lead-based paint hazard control programs, health and safety programs, and energy efficiency improvement activities and programs; Build and enhance partner resources to develop the most cost-effective methods for identifying and controlling key housing-related environmental health and safety hazards; Promote collaboration, data sharing, and targeting between health and housing departments; Ensure to the greatest extent feasible that job training, employment, contracting, and other economic opportunities generated by this grant will be directed to low- and very-low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons in the area in which the project is located.

Application Deadline: November 7, 2023

Award Ceiling: \$2,000,000

Award Floor: \$1,000,000

Link to additional information: [FR-6700-N-44](#)

Free Online Elder Abuse Training

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst



FREE Online Elder Abuse Training

PIC Pending for law enforcement professionals

Making the Multidisciplinary Team Model Work

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

9:00am - 11:00am

Online on Zoom

The Abuse in Later Life Project is hosting an online training focusing on the critical role multidisciplinary teams play in addressing elder mistreatment.

Training Description

Recent studies show that elder abuse is growing at an alarming rate, with an estimated 84% increase since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. That means that it's more important than ever to work together to address elder mistreatment. Join us as we talk about how multidisciplinary teams can provide support for victims in a coordinated and collaborative way, helping them on their path to healing.

About the Instructor

Alison Martin is an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for the County of Henrico who handles all phases of the prosecution of sophisticated and complex violent matters, including high profile media cases. She is a frequent lecturer and law enforcement trainer, as well as a subject matter expert on elder abuse. Frequently representing the CA's office at forward-

facing community events, she is an active participant on Henrico County's Adult Protective Services Multidisciplinary Team. Allison is a proud resident of the City of Richmond where she served as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for four years.

[Check out the flier here](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



VCU

Virginia Center on Aging
College of Health Professions

New Website Provides Clear Strategies to Support Family Caregivers

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst

Announcing: A coalition of groups, including NASHP, the National Alliance for Caregiving, and The John A. Hartford Foundation, is proud to announce the launch of SupportCaregiving.org, a new site that supports the implementation of the first-of-its-kind [National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers](#).

About the site: The new site shares specific actions from the National Strategy that employers, funders, managed care plans, and state officials can take to support family caregivers. The site also features a short animated video that provides an overview of the National Strategy.

JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

Yesterday, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized updates to Medicaid regulations that will make it easier for millions of low-income older adults and people with disabilities to get help with their Medicare costs. The new Streamlining Medicare Savings Program Eligibility Determination and Enrollment final rule simplifies the burdensome processes for applying and verifying income and assets for the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) across states.

Only about half of people eligible for MSPs are enrolled, so reducing the paperwork burden and streamlining the enrollment rules will help thousands of older adults get this financial help for the first time. The changes will also help the millions of people who currently have MSPs retain coverage during redeterminations and renewals.

Justice in Aging has long been advocating for simplifying Medicaid eligibility and enrollment and wrote [comments in support of the proposed Streamlining rule last year](#). We are excited to see these improvements to MSP enrollment finalized and will continue to advocate for states to implement them quickly.

Highlights of the final Streamlining MSPs rule include:

- Automatically enrolling many people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) into the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) to ensure they get help with Medicare premiums and cost sharing.
- Maximizing states' use of data from the Medicare Part D low-income subsidy (LIS) program to enroll people with LIS into MSPs and aligning MSP and LIS definitions of "family size."
- Easing the burden on MSP applicants and enrollees to provide documentation of income and assets.

- Ensuring QMB enrollment for people with Part A premiums is effective when Medicare entitlement begins.

[Learn more about the new rule in CMS's press release](#) and stay tuned for additional Justice in Aging resources on what the new rules mean for older adults in the coming weeks.





The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce the release of federal fiscal year (FFY) 2021 and FFY 2022 Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Child and Adult Core Set data. CMS publicly reports data for Core Set quality measures that were reported on by at least 25 states and that met CMS' data quality standards. For FFY 2021, 21 of 23 child measures and 27 of 32 adult measures met those criteria, and for FFY 2022, 24 of 25 child measures and 29 of 33 adult measures met those criteria. Please see the links below for the full set of Child and Adult Core Set Measure reporting resources.

Fact Sheet: Quality of Care for Children and Adults in Medicaid and CHIP

[2021 Child and Adult Core Sets](#)

[2022 Child and Adult Core Sets](#)

Child Core Set

[Child Core Set Home Page](#)

Measure Performance Tables:

Child Core Set

[FFY 2021](#)

[FFY 2022](#)

Adult Core Set

[Adult Core Set Home Page](#)

Performance Measurement Tables:

Adult Core Set

[FFY 2021](#)

[FFY 2022](#)

Child and Adult Health Care Quality Measures Dataset

[FFY 2021](#)

[FFY 2022](#)

[Annual Core Set Review Process](#)

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) 2021 Public Use File on Financial Well-Being of Medicare Beneficiaries

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst

September 14, 2023: CMS released the public use file on Financial Well-Being of Medicare beneficiaries living in the community with estimates for 2021. New this year is information on median incomes and median values of assets owned by Medicare enrollees. The file also presents information on asset ownership, food insecurity, and access to transportation by a variety of beneficiary characteristics including race/ethnicity, income, and primary language spoken at home. The public use file uses data from the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey and can be accessed [here](#).

Medicare News: Open Enrollment Coming Soon/Webinars

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst

Coming Soon! Medicare's Open Enrollment Period



Medicare health and drug plans can make changes each year – things like cost, coverage, and which providers and pharmacies are in their networks. You can change your Medicare health and prescription drug plans during the Open Enrollment Period (OEP), which is from October 15–December 7 each year. You should always review materials your plan sends, like the “Evidence of Coverage” (EOC) and

“Annual Notice of Change” (ANOC). If your plans are changing, make sure they will still meet your needs for the next year. If you’re satisfied with your plan, you don’t need to do anything.

For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE or visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov).

NTP Webinars

“Medicare Open Enrollment Period (OEP) Bootcamp 2023”

Dates: 9/27 & 9/28

Time: 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. ET

Join us as we share Medicare Program updates and resources to help those who assist people with Medicare make informed decisions about their 2024 health and drug coverage.

Topics for each day:

Wednesday, September 27 – Medicare Plan Finder basics, updates and user tips; information about The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022, including: 2023 insulin cost and vaccine coverage reminders, 2024 impacts to the Medicare drug coverage “Catastrophic phase,” and Extra Help expansion; and Q&A.

To register for the 9/27 webinar, visit

CMSnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov/moodle/course/view.php?id=284

Thursday, September 28 – Medicare OEP overview and general program updates, 1-800-MEDICARE overview and activities, OEP media outreach campaigns, State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) overview and Virtual Counseling toolkit, Medicare account experience live demonstration, fraud awareness and prevention, and Q&A.

To register for the 9/28 webinar, visit

CMSnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov/moodle/course/view.php?id=285

These webinars will be recorded and posted to the NTP website. To view the recordings, visit CMSnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov/?q=ntp-courses.

2023 NTP Virtual Workshop Recordings

If you missed our NTP Virtual Workshops, the recordings are available now in [Past Events section of the NTP website](#). Session topics include:

- Social Security
- Medicare Enrollment, Eligibility, Part A, and Part B
- Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap)
- Drug Coverage When Using Medicare
- Medicare Advantage
- Medicare for People with Disabilities
- Medicare for People with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)
- Medicare Current Topics
- Coordination of Benefits
- Medicare Scenarios (Casework Session)
- Medicare & Tax-Favored Health Programs
- Medicare Plan Finder

Updated NTP Training Materials

- Spanish version Drug Coverage When Using Medicare PowerPoint
- Spanish version Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) Policies PowerPoint

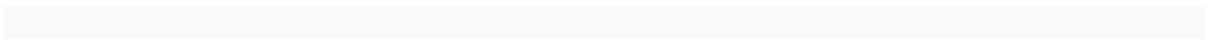
For these and all of our training materials go to CMSnationaltrainingprogram.cms.gov/resources.

New/Updated CMS Products

[Medicare & You 2024 handbook \(English, Spanish, alternate formats & other languages\)](#)

[Medicare: Getting Started](#)

[Time to do your Yearly Medicare Review](#)



September 2023

MedsMatter!

MedsMatter! is a Health Quality Innovation Network (HQIN) initiative to highlight the impacts of safe medication practices, and patient engagement through education, resources and quality improvement best practices.

Encourage Your Patients and Families to Participate in National Drug Take Back Day on October 28

Encourage your patients and families to dispose of unused or unneeded prescription medications during the DEA National Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visit the [DEA website](https://www.dea.gov/takeback), type in your zip code and find the closest collection site.

Click the image to the right or [HERE](#) to download our free promotional flyer.



Fall is a **great** time to clean out your medicine cabinet

DEA NATIONAL ^{Rx} TAKEBACK

Use the next **"DRUG TAKE BACK DAY"** to dispose of unneeded medications properly.

Please share this with your community, churches, family, and friends.

- 1 Visit the [DEA website](https://www.dea.gov/takeback)
- 2 Type in your zip code
- 3 Find the closest collection site

Turn in unneeded medication for safe disposal.

Saturday, October 28, 2023
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back.
Visit [DEATakeback.com](https://www.dea.gov/takeback) for a collection site near you.

IDENTIFY

Do you have medicine you want to get rid of?
[Drug Disposal Options | FDA](#)

IMPORTANT: If you or someone you care for has been prescribed a narcotic or opioid, it is VERY important to use and dispose of these medications safely. Please take the time to watch this short video in the link below and learn what you can do to address the Opioid Crisis:
In Virginia: [Mind Your Meds | SeniorNavigator](#)
In Kansas, Missouri and South Carolina: [Mind Your Meds | HQIN](#)

HQIN Constellation Quality Health kfmcc Kansas Healthcare HQIN

This material was prepared by Health Quality Innovation (HQI), a Quality Innovation Network Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. 22OCT1923HQIN-QIO-0000-03/1923

Click [HERE](#) to download and print other posters, pamphlets and materials to help promote National Drug Take Back Day.

If you or someone you care for has been prescribed a narcotic or opioid, it is extremely important to use and dispose of these medications safely. Use one of the links below to watch a short Mind Your Meds video and learn what you can do to address the Opioid Crisis.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the video if you are in Virginia.



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | media@dss.virginia.gov

New Survey Provides Insight into How Virginians Volunteer and Participate in Their Communities

Richmond, VA (September 26, 2023) - [Serve Virginia](#), the lead agency of the [Virginia Department of Social Services \(VDSS\)](#) for community service and volunteerism, is proud to announce the release of the inaugural Virginia Community Engagement Index (VCEI).

The VCEI is a new resource that reveals firsthand information about how Virginians dedicate their time to the organizations and activities that serve their communities. Through a survey disseminated in January, Serve Virginia collected responses from more than 6,000 Virginians who provided insights on volunteerism, informal helping, and other civic actions across the Commonwealth.

According to the VCEI, Virginians dedicate their time to organizations that address the needs they care about most. Education (48 percent), health and well-being (47 percent) and housing (40 percent) ranked as high priority needs facing their communities. Respondents also frequently reported volunteering with youth or educational organizations, food pantries or hunger relief efforts, as well as hospitals or health organizations. The VCEI reports that spirituality and lived experience are among the top five reasons Virginians choose to volunteer their time to their communities; houses of worship or religious organizations are in the top five places respondents choose to volunteer.

"The VCEI is a first-of-its-kind resource that provides data and insight about how Virginians serve in their communities as well as a framework that will connect research to strategic action," says Kathy Spangler, director of Serve Virginia. "This report represents a unique moment for Virginia as we use this unprecedented level of insight into civic health and community engagement to identify our most pressing community needs and mobilize around effective solutions."

Virginians not only contributed to the good of their community through organized activities, but also by regularly helping their neighbors. The VCEI found that 7 out of 10 people report helping others through informal

service with over 50 percent saying they do so more than once a month. Those that identify as active volunteers report engaging in service multiple times per month. Respondents report the feeling of fulfillment from helping others, the opportunity to share their skills, and the social environment provided by volunteer activities as the reasons they continue to volunteer with organizations across the Commonwealth.

“The VCEI helps us understand what it means to ‘show up in our communities’, whether we’re talking about volunteering, voting, philanthropy, or advocacy. This is also about building the relationships we need,” says Vanessa Diamond, senior vice president of civic engagement at Community Foundation for Greater Richmond and member of the VCEI core team. “The conversations we had when developing the VCEI were so essential; these are the conversations we need to continue having if we want to strengthen the infrastructure of Virginia’s social and civic network, build better programming, and strengthen access points for community members to get involved.”

The strategy and design of the VCEI involved the engagement and input of more than 38 Virginia organizations and institutions. SIR, a Richmond-based research and consulting firm, was recruited to support the design and provide analyses of the more than 6,000 responses received from residents throughout the Commonwealth.

The Virginia Community Engagement Index, available online at [Serve Virginia](#), brings a state, regional, and local level focus to national volunteerism research, including [AmeriCorps’](#) biannual study on [Volunteering and Civic Engagement in America](#) and recent findings from [Points of Light](#). The VCEI insights are designed to inform how communities mobilize using service and volunteerism as an asset to address pressing needs and priorities, while inspiring all Virginians to get involved and make a difference.

National Conference of State Legislatures: The Medicaid Toolkit

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst

The Medicaid Toolkit is a collection of information about the Medicaid program. With state legislatures playing a key role in Medicaid financing, regulation, oversight and innovation, the toolkit covers all aspects of the program, from the fundamentals to in-depth guidance on current policy topics.

[Learn more](#)

Justice in Aging Article: Guide to Help with Medicaid Unwinding

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs

JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, protections were put in place to keep individuals enrolled in Medicaid and protect their health coverage. These protections have ended, and states are now reviewing individuals' ongoing eligibility for Medicaid. This process of redetermining eligibility is called "unwinding," and it poses challenges to for older adults—particularly those dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.

[Justice in Aging published a new resource](#) to help advocates identify and resolve problems during Medicaid unwinding and preserve access to critical health care coverage for low-income older adults. The guide, [Common Medicaid Unwinding Issues Impacting Older Adults: Advocacy Opportunities & Practice Tips](#), includes strategies for advocates to prevent and resolve frequently occurring issues. The guide will be updated regularly.

For additional resources, see Justice in Aging's [COVID-19 and Public Health Emergency \(PHE\) Unwinding Resources](#).

Justice in Aging Article: Proposed Regulation Regarding Social Security Payments

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs

JUSTICE IN AGING

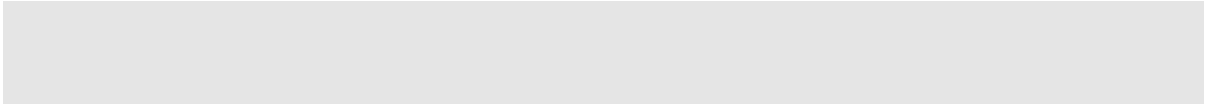
FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

On August 24, 2023, the Social Security Administration (SSA) published a proposed regulation that would be a big step toward ensuring that more disabled people and older adults get a full SSI payment each month.

SSI provides lifesaving income supports, but people can see their benefits cut by a third if they do not pay the “market rate” for rental housing. This is true even for people who pay a lot of rent but get help from family. The rule can be especially complicated for people who are renting rooms from family or friends. SSA’s proposed regulation would mean the agency would stop cutting people’s SSI checks as long as they pay one-third of their SSI benefits toward rent.

This is important for recipients, because with a maximum SSI benefit of just \$914 per month, with benefits often reduced because of other income, virtually all SSI recipients are struggling financially. The proposed regulation would also make the SSI program work better for everyone. There would be less onerous reporting requirements for SSI applicants and recipients and thousands of hours of less work for the already stretched SSA staff.

[Visit Justice in Aging's Comment Portal to leave a comment for the agency in support of this new policy.](#)



Justice in Aging Article: Supporting Older Adults after Incarceration Series

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs

JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

As the prison population ages and older adults leave incarceration, advocates can play a critical role in improving the way we support older adults reentering our communities by connecting them to housing, health care, and economic security benefits. Due to systemic racism and discrimination, older adults reentering our communities are disproportionately older adults of color, especially Black men. The unique and significant disadvantages caused by structural racism in the criminal justice system and throughout their lives follow them outside of the prison walls, so older adults leaving incarceration are at risk of being unable to see a doctor, find housing, and meet their basic needs.

Justice in Aging is releasing a series of issue briefs to ensure advocates and service providers are aware of the unique challenges older adults reentering the community after incarceration face and to provide them with tools to connect their older adult clients to the safety net benefits they need. The second brief in the series, supported by AARP Public Policy Institute, describes Social Security policies on [Connecting Formerly Incarcerated Individuals to Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) and Social Security Benefits](#). SSI and Social Security are vital benefits that ensure the economic well-being of older adults and people with disabilities. Being able to access

these benefits quickly helps older adults secure housing and pay for other basic needs.

[Get the new issue brief](#)

Supporting Older Adults After Incarceration Series

The first brief in the series, [Medicare Special Enrollment Period for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals: What Advocates Need to Know](#), provided advocates with information to connect their older adult clients with Medicare benefits, including those who are dually-eligible for Medicaid.

Later in the year, we'll release a resource on connecting older adults reentering the community to housing. The series will conclude with a webinar.

Justice in Aging launched its [reentry program](#) under its [Strategic Initiative to Advance Equity in Aging](#).